(iii) Persuading EU to include India in the list of countries for import of egg product.

(iv) Notifying standards for export of raw meat (chilled/frozen) and processed meat products under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963.

(v) Periodic inspection of meat processing facilities to ensure that such facilities comply with the quality standard as laid down under Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963.

(vi) Providing financial assistance for market development, brand publicity, quality control, packaging development, upgradation of meat processing facilities in the public sector, modernisation of abattoirs, etc.

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns and buyer seller meets and participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions.

(c) and (d). The export of livestock products during each year of the 8th Five Year Plan period were as under :-

Val: Rs./Crores

1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Apr-Sept'96)
368.89	464.14	539.936	779.88	379.56

(Source : DGCIS, Calcutta)

No target have yet been fixed for the export of livestock products for the 9th Five Year Plan.

Investment in Industrial Gases Industry

3143. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been considerable investment in the industrial gases industry during the last three year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the Indian and Foreign Companies who made investment therein;

(c) since when these Ivestments were made and the amount invested in terms of dollar and rupees by each company in industrial gases industry;

(d) the production capacity of all these domestic and foreign industrial gas units; and

(e) the net foreign exchange earned by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). Industrial Cases Industry covers Oxygen, Carbondioxide, dissolved acetylene, Nitrous Oxide, Nitrogen and Argon. This industry in exempted from compulsory licensing. The units are to file Industrial Entrepreneurs memoanda indication the capacity, investment proposed, etc. The investments made in this sector during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda filed			
	No. of Units	Capacity for of Gases others than Carbon-Dioxide (lakh cu.m.)	Carbon-Dioxide (tonnes)	Investment (Rs.crores)
1994	33	1943	10940	381
1995	41	1253	10500	191
1996 (Upto August)	17	8609	40000	282

The details of some of these proposals viz. names of the company, name and country of the foreign collaborator and equity participation in dollar and rupee terms are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parlieamnet Library.

The production of Industrial Gases in the country is mainly for the domestic market. The foreign exchange earnings of these companies are monitored by the Reserve Bank of India.

Illegal Collection of Tax

3144. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Illegal tax collection is nothing short of a scandal: Chelliah" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated November 16, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of the action taken against the officials involved; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve tax administration?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Taxes are collected under the provisions of Taxing statutes. In case the views of the tax collecting agencies are not upheld, that does not make the collection illegal in itself warranting action against the officials.

(d) Improvement and modernisation of tax administration is an on going process. It is taken up on top priority basis.